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NORTH CAROLINA

Farm Report

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT FACTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHORT COTTON CROP?
2. WAS THE 1949 GROWING SEASON FAVORABLE FOR ALL CROPS?
3. THE 1949 PEANUT CROP IS THE SMALLEST IN HOW MANY YEARS?
4. HOW MANY LAYERS WERE ON NORTH CAROLINA FARMS DURING NOVEMBER?
5. STUDY TABLE ON PAGE 3.
6. COMPARE MILK PRODUCTION DURING NOVEMBER WITH 1948 PRODUCTION.
7. DID 1949 CORN YIELDS SHOW ANY INCREASE OVER PREVIOUS YEARS?
8. HOW DOES 1949 TOBACCO PRODUCTION COMPARE WITH 1948?
9. HAS THERE BEEN ANY SHIFT IN THE SOYBEAN ACREAGE IN RECENT YEARS?
10. IS THE 1949 SWEETPOTATO CROP ABOVE OR BELOW AVERAGE?

No. 51

RALEIGH, N. C.

DECEMBER 22, 1949

DECEMBER 1, 1949 GENERAL FARM REPORT

WEATHER AND CROPS - 1949 SEASON

The 1949 season was generally favorable for the production of all crops except cotton and wheat.

The fall and winter of 1948-49 was one of the mildest of record. Farmers took advantage of the excellent conditions and seeded a small grain crop considerably above the small 1947-48 crop. Winter growth of grain crops was unusually good and by March had advanced far beyond normal. However, freezing weather during the latter part of March caused severe damage to wheat in certain areas of the State and contributed heavily to lower yields.

Conditions were generally favorable for spring plantings, and most farmers were way ahead of schedule by the middle of April. Temperatures during April were erratic but averaged about normal for the month. All crops made considerable progress until the latter part of June when droughty conditions began to develop in Central and upper Piedmont counties. July brought unusually warm weather with high temperatures accompanied by frequent rains throughout the State, which effectively ended the droughty conditions.

August was characterized by periods of both unusually hot and cool weather. Rains were quite frequent, and the month ended as one of the wettest Augusts in about a decade. A dying hurricane produced high winds and heavy rains the last few days of the month over most of the State. Considerable corn was blown over, particularly in the southern Piedmont counties.

The fall season was unusually favorable for the harvesting of all crops, and planting of small grains. September weather was typical of the fall season.

October and November continued generally favorable. The harvesting of corn made excellent progress and the seeding of small grains was generally completed. Peanut threshing, harvesting of soybeans and lespedeza seed have progressed on schedule.

PEANUT PRODUCTION LOWEST SINCE 1933

North Carolina produced 236 million pounds of peanuts picked and threshed this year, a crop 32 percent short of the 347 million pounds produced in 1948 and 23 percent below the 10-year average. Low yields resulting from periods of extremely adverse weather conditions during the planting and growing season along with a considerable reduction in acreage accounted for the sharp decrease in production. The crop produced in the State this year was the smallest since 1933.

This year's harvested crop of 236,000 acres, the lowest since 1941, compares with 295,000 acres harvested last year and the 10-year average of 274,000 acres.

An average yield of 1,000 pounds per acre was realized from the crop this year. Last year's yields average 1,175 pounds per acre. The 10-year average is 1,124 pounds.

IRISH POTATO PRODUCTION DOWN

Production of all Irish potatoes in North Carolina totaled 7,869,000 bushels in 1949 or about 25 percent less than the 10,430,000 bushels produced in 1948. The sharp drop in production came about as a result of both a decrease in acreage and lower yields. The yield this year averaged 129 bushels per acre, comparing with 149 bushels in 1948, and the 10-year average of 110 bushels.

There were 61,000 acres of potatoes harvested in the State this year, the smallest acreage since 1926. This acreage compares with 70,000 acres harvested in 1948 and the 10-year average of 83,000 acres.

Of the total acreage harvested this year, 24,000 acres were commercial early potatoes. The commercial crop produced 5,040,000 bushels, or 64 percent of the State's total production, for an average yield of 210 bushels per acre. In 1948, commercial production amounted to 6,450,000 bushels from 30,000 acres -- an average yield of 215 bushels per acre.

1949 COTTON CROP BELOW AVERAGE

Reports received around December 1 from cotton producers and others interested in the cotton industry point to a North Carolina cotton crop of 460,000 bales of 500-pounds gross weight. This year's harvested acreage is estimated to be 815,000, with an average yield of 270 pounds of lint per acre currently indicated. The December 1 forecast is 218,000 bales below the 1948 crop and 89,000 bales under the ten-year (1938-47) average crop for this State.

This year's harvested acreage is 12 percent more than the 1948 harvested crop, while the indicated yield is 177 pounds less. Last year's crop was harvested from 725,000 acres, with an average yield of 447 pounds of lint, grossing 678,000 bales production.

As of December 1, the 1949 cotton crop was fairly well picked out -- much earlier than has usually been the case. A few fields of unpicked cotton, however, are still seen. Reports received indicated that between 90 and 95 percent of the crop has been housed and ginnings to December 1 account for 447,000 bales.

From the standpoint of weather, the 1949 cotton season has been mostly favorable except for a cold, wet spring which resulted in late plantings and variable stands. Consequently, the toll from boll weevil infestation and other insect damage was heavy. The fall weather has been ideal for harvesting the crop and farmers have taken advantage of the good, clear days. The moisture content of seed cotton has been unusually low this year and has meant excellent ginning quality of seed cotton delivered.

A United States cotton crop of 16,034,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight was estimated by the National Crop Reporting Board, based upon conditions as of December 1. This compares with 14,877,000 bales produced in 1948 and a ten-year (1938-47) average crop of 11,306,000 bales.

NORTH CAROLINA COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS - 1948 AND PRELIMINARY 1949

CROPS AND UNITS	ACREAGE HARVESTED 1/			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION			PRICE		VALUE 2/	
	AVERAGE 1938-47	1948	1949	AVERAGE 1938-47	1948	1949	AVERAGE 1938-47	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	- ACRES -						- THOUSANDS -			- DOLLARS -		1,000 DOLLARS	
FOR FRESH MARKET:													
LIMA BEANS.....BU.	940	300	300	48	80	75	47	24	22	2.00	2.45	48	54
SNAP BEANS, ALL.....BU.	11,419	11,900	12,300	84	92	88	966 3/	1,092 3/	1,085 3/	2.59	2.03	2,832	2,201
LATE SPRING.....BU.	5,980	5,400	6,000	70	80	75	408 3/	432	450	2.75	2.15	1,188	968
LATE SUMMER, WEST.....BU.	5,430	5,400	5,400	100	110	105	541 3/	594	567	2.60	2.10	1,544	1,191
EARLY FALL.....BU.	960	1,100	900	56	60	75	53 3/	66 3/	68 3/	1.70	1.10	100	42
BEETS.....BU.	210	250	250	200	170	250	43 3/	42	62	2.25	1.60	94	99
CABBAGE, ALL.....TONS	7,284	8,500	9,100	5.5	7.3	6.3	40,000 3/	62,100 3/	57,200	27.39	42.40	1,701	2,425
LATE SPRING.....TONS	1,620	2,000	2,100	5.0	6.0	6.5	8,100 3/	12,000 3/	13,600	35.30	48.50	346	660
LATE SUMMER, WEST.....TONS	4,090	3,800	4,300	6.2	7.5	7.0	25,400	28,500	30,100	33.00	41.60	940	1,252
LATE FALL.....TONS	1,780	2,700	2,700	4.8	8.0	5.0	8,200	21,600	13,500	19.20	38.00	415	513
CANTALOUPE.....70 LB. CRT.	5,340	4,800	5,100	58	50	40	313	240	204	2.45	1.50	588	306
CUCUMBERS.....BU.	4,540	6,700	7,700	76	80	70	345	536	539 3/	1.70	1.35	911	567
LETTUCE.....WEST CRT.	1,380	1,300	1,400	92	123	130	124 3/	160 3/	182 3/	4.90	3.10	735	372
GREEN PEAS.....BU.	1,420	100	250	58	50	60	85 3/	5	15	3.50	1.30	18	20
GREEN PEPPERS.....BU.	2,520	3,400	3,600	156	140	135	383	476	486	2.00	1.55	952	753
EARLY IRISH POTATOES.....BU.	34,150	30,000	24,000	148	215	210	5,047	6,450	5,040	1.60	1.35	10,320	6,804
STRAWBERRIES.....24 QT. CRT.	4,110	2,300	2,500	83	85	70	361 3/	196	175	8.45	7.90	1,656	1,382
TOMATOES.....BU.	970	650	450	71	70	65	71 3/	46	29	2.30	1.85	106	54
WATERMELONS.....MELON	9,770	10,000	10,700	224	240	200	2,178	2,400	2,140	340	175	816	374
FOR PROCESSING													
SNAP BEANS.....TONS	1,740	1,200	1,200	1.4	1.5	1.5	2.1	1.8	1.8	164.50	113.10	296	204
CUCUMBERS.....BU.	6,020	6,800	9,200	80	72	92	483	490	846	1.85	1.45	906	1,227

1/ Acreage for harvest includes any partially harvested or not harvested because of low prices or other economic factors.

2/ Values are for the marketing season or crop year and should not be confused with calendar year income.

3/ Includes some quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value.

1949 TOBACCO CROP BELOW LAST YEAR

Production of all flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina during 1949 totaled 728,380,000 pounds. This production is 1.5 percent less than the 739,380,000 pounds produced last year, but is 8.1 percent greater than the 10-year average production of 673,715,000 pounds.

Type 11 production is estimated at 254,400,000 pounds as compared with a production of 277,270,000 pounds last year and a 10-year average of 246,663,000 pounds. Yield per acre for 1949 is placed at 1,060 pounds. Such a yield is 130 pounds below that for 1949 but is 106 pounds greater than the 10-year average. In this belt beds were planted early, and encouraged by mild weather plants made rapid growth. However, severe spring freezes along with heavy attacks of plant diseases resulted in a sharp decrease in the tobacco plant population. At transplanting time Type 11 tobacco growers were faced with an acute shortage of plants which barely met the requirements for setting 1949 acreage allotments. Thus, many growers were late in completing their settings with consequent restriction of replantings. Scarcity of plants along with droughty conditions at transplanting time turning to rather wet conditions later in the growing season were primarily responsible for the rather low yields in this belt as compared with other areas.

In the Type 12 belt growers ran into some of the same difficulties as experienced by Type 11 producers, but with much less serious results. Total production in this belt amounted to 376,980,000 pounds and was 4,310,000 pounds above the 1948 crop and 30,354,000 pounds greater than the average. Yield per acre in this belt at 1,240 pounds is 45 pounds under that for 1948.

Growers in the Type 13 belt experienced a much better season than did Type 11 and 12 producers. Production in this belt this year amounted to 97,020,000 pounds as compared to a production of 89,460,000 last year and an average of 80,446,000 pounds. Yield per acre at 1,260 was equal to

that in 1948 and 202 pounds above average.

Weather conditions were not too favorable for the production of Burley (Type 31) tobacco. Transplanting was done under rather difficult conditions and many growers had trouble in getting normal stands. Flooding rains in northern mountain counties during most of the growing season caused heavy damage through washing and leaching of fertilizer. Yield for this belt is 1,550 pounds per acre, which compares with a yield of 1,680 pounds last year.

Burley production in 1949 amounted to 16,740,000 pounds, or 564,000 pounds under 1948 production.

ALL HAY CROPS ABOVE AVERAGE

The production of "all hay" in North Carolina during 1949 is estimated at 1,395,000 tons. This compares with a production of 1,289,000 tons in 1948 and the 1938-47 average production of 1,201,000 tons. The increased production in 1949 over last year is due to higher yields per acre since the total acreage harvested this year was 32,000 acres less than the 1948 harvested acreage. Yields from all hay crops were above last year except peanut hay which remained the same. The average yield per acre for all hay was 1.18 tons. This compares with a yield of 1.04 tons last year and a ten year average yield of .99 tons per acre.

SMALLER WHEAT CROP FOR 1950

Indications from December reports point to seedings of 435,000 acres of winter wheat for harvest in 1950. This is 15 percent less than the acreage seeded for harvest in 1948. Reduced seedings are principally due to the influence of optional production quotas for growers desiring price supports for their wheat crop. Condition of the crop as of December 1 indicates a production of 6,525,000 bushels in 1950.

SWEETPOTATO PRODUCTION INCREASES

Sweetpotato production in North Carolina, estimated at 5,876,000 bushels for 1949, is about 4 percent above the previous year's crop of 5,635,000 bushels; however, it is still 24 percent below the 10-year average. This year's increase in production over that of 1948 resulted from an increase in acreage.

During 1949, there were 52,000 acres of sweetpotatoes harvested in the State which compare with 49,000 acres harvested in 1948. This increase in acreage breaks the yearly downward trend which has been in effect since 1943. And with the exception of 1948, this year's acreage is the lowest since 1879.

This year's crop made an average yield of 113 bushels per acre, only slightly lower than the 1948 average yield of 115 bushels per acre. Conditions for growing and harvesting the crop were generally favorable during the year.

Estimated production for the U. S. is placed at 54,232,000 bushels which is 8 percent larger than the 50,204,000 bushels harvested in 1948, but is 15 percent below average.

A NOTE TO FARMERS

Land owners in North Carolina, since 1917, have voluntarily reported at the time of tax listing, certain farm facts such as acres of various crops, numbers of certain livestock, etc. Individual records have been held in the strictest confidence, but the sum total of all reports has served as a useful basis for making available current agricultural program planning facts for each county and the State.

We urge you to protect yourself and the future interest of your county by making a special effort to prepare and turn in your Farm Census report this coming January.

(SIGNED) L. Y. Ballentine
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

ANNUAL SUMMARY - ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS 1948 AND PRELIMINARY 1949

CROP	UNIT	ACREAGE HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION			SEASON AV. PRICE REC'D BY FARMERS		VALUE OF PRODUCTION 1/	
		AVERAGE 1938-47	1948	1949	AVERAGE 1938-47	1948	1949	AVERAGE 1938-47	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
<u>NORTH CAROLINA</u>														
		<u>THOUSAND ACRES</u>						<u>THOUSANDS</u>			<u>DOLLARS</u>		<u>1,000 DOLLARS</u>	
GENERAL CROPS														
ALL CORN.....	BU.	2,320	2,226	2,159	23.0	31.0	35.0	53,124	69,006	75,565	1.35	1.30	93,158	98,234
CORN, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	2,261	2,150	2,098	22.9	31.0	35.0	51,774	66,650	73,430	-	-	-	-
CORN, FOR SILAGE.....	TON	16	16	11	14.3	10.5	9.5	8.7	168	104	-	-	-	-
CORN, FOR FORAGE.....	TON	42	60	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHEAT.....	BU.	459	390	445	14.8	15.5	13.0	6,805	6,045	5,785	2.28	2.00	13,783	11,570
OATS, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	305	270	370	26.6	29.5	30.0	8,226	7,965	11,100	1.03	.80	8,204	8,880
BARLEY, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	32	34	36	23.7	23.5	25.0	764	799	900	1.66	1.20	1,326	1,080
RYE, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	40	22	19	10.6	12.5	10.5	407	275	200	2.29	2.05	630	410
SORGHUM, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	-	21	21	-	22.0	25.0	-	462	525	1.19	1.18	550	620
SORGO SIRUP.....	GAL.	12	10	10	68.0	68.0	72.0	801	680	720	1.90	1.90	1,292	1,368
COTTON, LINT 2/.....	LB.	743	725	815	355	447	270	549	678	460	.308	.291	104,357	66,930
COTTONSEED.....	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	223	282	186	60.30	42.10	17,005	7,831
TOBACCO, ALL.....	LB.	663.1	604.3	631.8	1,025	1,252	1,179	685,066	756,684	745,120	.497	.482	376,447	359,378
TYPE 11.....	LB.	255.7	233	240	954	1,190	1,060	246,663	277,270	254,400	.498	-	138,080	-
TYPE 12.....	LB.	323	290	304	1,067	1,285	1,240	346,606	372,650	376,960	.495	-	184,462	-
TYPE 13.....	LB.	75.6	71	77	1,058	1,260	1,260	80,446	89,460	97,020	.513	-	45,893	-
TYPE 31.....	LB.	8.9	10.3	10.8	1,240	1,680	1,550	11,351	17,304	16,740	.463	-	8,012	-
IRISH POTATOES.....	BU.	83	70	61	110	149	129	9,128	10,430	7,869	1.61	1.35	16,792	10,623
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	73	49	52	106	115	113	7,714	5,635	5,876	2.32	2.15	13,073	12,633
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	LB.	150.2	150	165	210	230	260	31,785	34,500	42,900	.115	.086	3,968	3,689
HAY CROPS														
ALL HAY.....	TON	1,215	1,237	1,205	.99	1.04	1.16	1,201	1,289	1,395	32.50	29.50	41,892	41,152
ALFALFA.....	TON	11	39	51	2.06	2.35	2.50	23	92	128	-	-	-	-
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....	TON	75	86	95	1.13	1.10	1.25	85	95	119	-	-	-	-
LESPEDEZA.....	TON	437	503	498	1.09	1.10	1.20	478	553	598	-	-	-	-
SOYBEANS.....	TON	187	137	136	1.11	1.10	1.25	206	151	170	-	-	-	-
COWPEAS.....	TON	93	23	24	.87	.85	1.00	81	20	24	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS.....	TON	248	266	224	.63	.70	.70	156	186	157	-	-	-	-
GRAINS.....	TON	79	81	85	1.03	1.05	1.15	81	85	98	-	-	-	-
OTHER HAY.....	TON	86	102	92	1.07	1.05	1.10	92	107	101	-	-	-	-
SORGHUM FORAGE.....	TON	14	14	14	1.94	2.25	2.25	28	32	32	19.00	24.20	608	774
LEGUMES														
SOYBEANS:														
GROWN ALONE.....		376	384	380	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTERPLANTED.....		386	208	206	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIVALENT SOLID.....		569	488	483	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HARVESTED FOR BEANS.....	BU.	212	264	264	11.8	13.5	15.0	2,505	3,564	3,960	2.20	2.00	7,841	7,920
GRAZED OR PLOWED UNDER		171	87	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COWPEAS:														
GROWN ALONE.....		132	55	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTERPLANTED.....		277	72	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIVALENT SOLID.....		271	91	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HARVESTED FOR PEAS.....	BU.	59	22	19	4.7	6.0	5.5	276	132	104	4.58	3.65	605	380
GRAZED OR PLOWED UNDER		119	46	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS:														
GROWN ALONE.....		291	314	248	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTERPLANTED.....		3	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIVALENT SOLID.....		292	315	249	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PICKED & THRESHED.....	LB.	274	295	236	1,124	1,175	1,000	305,596	346,625	236,000	.108	.107	37,436	25,252
FRUITS & NUTS														
APPLES, COM'L CROP.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	958	976	448	2.00	2.00	1,952	896
PEACHES, TOTAL CROP.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,220	1,646	1,428	2.65	2.60	4,362	3,713
PEARS.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	301	209	130	2.00	1.90	418	247
GRAPES.....	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.2	5.6	4.5	176.00	145.00	986	652
PECANS, ALL.....	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,507	2,752	2,924	.213	.243	587	710
IMPROVED.....	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,229	2,450	2,573	.220	.250	539	643
SEEDLINGS.....	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	279	302	351	.160	.190	48	67
<u>UNITED STATES</u>														
CORN, ALL.....	BU.	88,617	86,067	86,735	31.4	42.8	38.9	2,787,628	3,681,793	3,377,790	1.29	1.19	4,752,652	4,017,810
WHEAT, ALL.....	BU.	59,854	73,017	76,751	16.6	18.0	14.9	991,950	1,313,534	1,146,463	2.00	1.86	2,622,558	2,133,125
OATS.....	BU.	38,347	40,198	40,560	32.1	37.1	32.6	1,234,082	1,493,304	1,322,924	.729	.634	1,088,079	838,491
BARLEY.....	BU.	12,720	11,987	9,879	24.0	26.4	24.1	304,741	315,894	238,104	1.17	1.05	369,478	250,172
RYE.....	BU.	2,874	2,096	1,558	12.1	12.6	12.0	35,109	26,449	18,697	1.47	1.23	38,787	23,019
BUCKWHEAT.....	BU.	426	336	279	16.7	18.8	18.6	7,075	6,305	5,184	1.13	.965	7,124	5,003
COTTON, LINT 2/.....	LB.	21,396	22,821	26,898	254.0	312.6	285.0	11,306	14,877	16,034	.304	.286	2,262,227	2,295,521
COTTONSEED.....	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,631	5,945	6,477	67.20	42.80	399,755	277,299
HAY, ALL.....	TON	73,966	73,208	72,835	1.34	1.36	1.36	99,539	99,471	99,305	23.60	21.80	2,349,595	2,163,659
HAY, WILD.....	TON	13,291	14,684	14,918	.89	.86	.82	11,855	12,678	12,296	-	-	-	-
SORGHUM FOR GRAIN.....	TON	6,292	7,296	6,612	16.0	18.0	23.1	102,398	131,596	152,630	1.23	.979	161,946	149,410
SORGHUM FOR FORAGE.....	TON	8,314	5,139	4,164	1.41	1.48	1.57	11,812	7,602	6,541	15.60	12.60	118,670	82,492
SORGHUM FOR SILAGE.....	TON	867	631	624	5.74	7.18	7.09	5,015	4,529	4,423	-	-	-	-
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	LB.	825.1	982.3	1,001	207	245	244	172,026	240,960	244,600	.088	.066	21,257	16,255
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS.....	BU.	8,025	10,430	9,912	18.7	21.4	22.4	148,381	223,006	222,305	2.27	2.08	505,915	462,485
COWPEAS, FOR PEAS.....	BU.	1,029	534	478	5.4	6.4	6.2	5,420	3,435	2,982	4.17	3.77	14,322	11,231
PEANUTS, FOR NUTS.....	LB.	2,718	3,311	2,433	692	706	762	1,845,718	2,338,470	1,853,140	.105	.104	246,495	191,801
POTATOES.....	BU.	2,730.3	2,109.3	1,901.3	145.5	215.5	211.4	393,403	454,654	401,962	1.55	1.40	703,166	563,508
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	711	515.5	541.9	89.7	97.4	100.1	63,626	50,204	54,232	2.22	2.14	111,374	115,843
TOBACCO: FLUE CURED.....	LB.	971.9	883.8	936.4	1,011	1,233	1,188	989,925	1,089,584	1,112,168	-	-	-	-
ALL TYPES.....	LB.	1,654.2	1,554.2	1,626.3	1,033	1,274	1,224	1,718,375	1,980,325	1,990,129	.482	.459	953,897	912,671
SORGO SIRUP.....	GAL.	186	110	90.0	60.1	69.7	66.8	11,173	7,665	6,012	1.67	1.72	12,776	10,343
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/ 111,114	88,407	133,181	2.23	1.45	195,100	177,575
PEACHES, ALL.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/ 68,947	65,352	74,780	2.05	1.53	133,820	108,824
PEARS, ALL.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/ 30,832	26,334	36,627	2.53	1.19	66,428	42,

1/ The values shown are for the crop year and should not be confused with calendar year income.

2/ Bales of 500 pounds gross weight.

3/ Includes some quantities not harvested.

FARM REPORT

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WASHINGTON, 25, D. C.

DECEMBER 1949

FARM REPORT

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RECORD EGG PRODUCTION

North Carolina farm flocks laid 52 million eggs in November. This is the largest production of record for November, and exceeds the previous record of 48 million eggs produced in November of last year by 8 percent.

Egg production per layer in November was 6.57 eggs, a record high rate for the month. This compared with 8.15 eggs per hen during the preceding month and 6.42 eggs per layer during November of last year. The higher rate of lay over last year is attributed to very moderate temperatures, better feeding, and closer culling practices.

Additions of maturing pullets to laying flocks increased the State's farm laying flocks to 7,982,000 during November. This is 7 percent more than the 7,493,000 layers reported on farms during the same month last year.

SOYBEAN CROP ABOVE AVERAGE

The December 1 estimate of production of soybeans for beans showed considerable improvement over the forecast a month earlier and places production at 3,960,000 bushels. This compares with a production of 3,564,000 bushels in 1948 and a 10-year average of 2,505,000 bushels. The 1949 yield is estimated at 15.0 bushels per acre which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels greater than the 1948 crop and equals the previous record yield harvested in 1947.

Growers harvested beans from 264,000 acres this year, the same acreage as harvested last year, but considerably above the 1938-47 average of 212,000 acres. The acreage devoted to soybeans for beans has shown a marked increase during the past five years, while the acres devoted to soybeans for all other purposes has declined considerably during this period.

SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION ABOUT AVERAGE

Total production of small grains (wheat, oats, barley and rye) in North Carolina for 1949 amounted to an estimated 17,985,000 bushels. This was 19.2 percent above the total grain production in 1948. A total of 870,000 acres of various grain crops were harvested in 1949 - 21.5 percent more than were harvested in 1948. One can see that comparatively, 1949 was not as good a year for grains as 1948, since the percentage increase in total production was somewhat less than that for total acres harvested. Yields from wheat were sharply under 1948 and were principally the cause for the lesser increase in production as compared with the increase in acreage. The 1949 wheat crop was damaged heavily from spring freezes.

MILK PRODUCTION AT RECORD LEVEL

Milk cows on North Carolina farms during November set a new high record for this particular month with total output estimated at 122 million pounds. This is 5 percent greater than the 116 million pounds of milk produced during the same month last year and 14 percent greater than the November 1938-47 average production of 107 million pounds. This higher milk production compared with November of last year reflects the effects of favorable weather during November, late fall grazing, and the high rate of concentrate and grain feeding.

Milk production per cow in herds during November was also the highest of record for the month. The 359,000 milk cows on North Carolina farms produced an average of 340 pounds per cow. This compares with a production of 328 pounds per cow in November of last year.

1949 CORN YIELD SETS RECORD

The estimated yield of corn for the 1949 crop is 35 bushels per acre. This is a record yield for North Carolina corn producers. The previous record yield of 31.5 bushels was made in 1947. The 1949 estimated yield is four bushels more than 1948 and 12 bushels greater than the 1938-47 average. The 1949 yield of 35 bushels compares with 21.1 bushels in 1939 and with 19.0 bushels in 1929. The 1949 yield is also more than double the yield of 15.0 bushels in 1932 and 17.0 bushels in 1928.

It is estimated that growers have or will harvest a total of 2,159,000 acres of corn this year, which is 3.0 percent less than 1948. The 10-year average harvested acreage is 2,320,000. Harvested acres totaled 2,414,000 in 1939 and 1,892,000 in 1929.

Total production from the 1949 crop is estimated at 75,565,000 bushels which exceeds 1948 by 6,559,000 bushels or 10 percent. Total production in 1949 also sets a record. The previous record production of 69,006,000 bushels was set in 1948. The 10-year (1938-47) average production is 53,124,000 bushels. Hence, production of corn in 1949 exceeds the 10-year average by 42.2 percent.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Statisticians of the Crop Reporting Service send you Christmas and New Year's Greetings, with the wish that prosperity may be yours during 1950.

Ray B. Converse Donald B. Jones
Earl A. Finch James F. Lankford
W. C. Hinson, Jr. Olaf Wakefield
Frank Parker